Department holding control of merchant shipping was too obvious for dispute. But on the *Admiralty* other hand the Lords of the Admiralty *objections* disliked the idea that a portion of their power should be alienated to another control, and they were horrified at the notion that brass buttons should be ordered about by bone. Sir Joseph Maclay appealed to the War Cabinet.

The fight was thus transferred to the chamber of the War Cabinet. The Lords of the Admiralty turned up in force to denounce the impiety of Sir Joseph Maclay's suggestion.

One of the Sea Lords wanted to know how it was possible for senior officers of the Admiralty engaged on transport to receive orders from a *Victory of* shipowner. But the War Cabinet de- *the pirates* cided, in spite of their objections, to approve the proposal of the Shipping Controller, adding thereto as a rider that if they so desired, the Admiralty could adopt a suggestion of the Director of Transports about keeping on their books the part of the staff dealing with Naval and Military shipping. So ended this naval engagement.

The pirates won and the ships of the line withdrew from these particular waters. The control of our mercantile marine passed entirely from the Admiralty to the new Shipping Ministry. The Department of the Director of Transports and Shipping duly took up

its quarters in the desiccated duck-pond of St. James's Park, under the humble roof of the new Ministry ; and despite the misgivings of the Admiralty chiefs, this arrangement turned out to be a complete success. Another matter which engaged the early attention of the Shipping Controller was one as to which I had given an undertaking as soon as I took office.